

MAYFIELD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER No. 60 SUMMER 2014

The Editor wishes to apologise for the delay to the publication of Newsletter 60 which has been caused, inter alia, by unusual events within the Club necessitating the rare occurrence of an Extraordinary General Meeting in July (see Chairman's Notes below).

By way of compensation, and at no extra charge, here is a bumper edition with interesting hands from the Captain and Richard Wheen – thank you! – and some thoughts on hand evaluation from me. ☺

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in April and it was disappointing that the attendance was only 29 out of 100 members. I take solace in the fact that there were no major decisions to be made at the AGM, this year. Next year, please make a greater effort to attend the AGM – it is your club and you should be there to contribute and support the Committee.

Washing Up

Please remember, at the end of the Tuesday and Friday Bridge Sessions, to wash up your cups and ensure the kitchen is left in a clean and tidy condition. Do not leave it to others to do it for you!

Dorothy Williamson

In May, we held the Dorothy Williamson Cup and the handicapping was, once again, based on the average NGS rating for each team and a formula recommended by the EBU. Some Members still feel that the handicapping was too severe with a range from 104 to 13 imp's. Any doubters may consider the result of the SCBA Wanborough Cup which took place in June. A field of 20 teams was headed by a high class quartet from Wimbledon Bridge Club (Mayfield were 4th) but over 36 boards the range of results was from -116 to +119 imp's!

The 2014/2015 Calendar

You will find the latest edition of our Calendar attached to this Newsletter. In October, we plan to hold our third Open Swiss Pairs evening. Martin Lee is not available to direct the event this year and Steve Foster will be taking his place. A new addition to the Calendar is a National Pairs Heat, taking place in December, and qualifying pairs will go through to the Regional Finals on 16th March 2015. The nearest Regional Final will be at Leatherhead Leisure Centre. You will note that, this year, we have scheduled Mayfield Teams Cup event to fall on matching Tuesdays in February and March so that regular partnerships are not compromised!

Disciplinary Action

In June, the Committee decided to expel Dean Morley from the Club following incidents of bad behaviour at the table. Dean exercised his right of an appeal to the Club Membership at an EGM held at the end of July. The Members present at the EGM considered Dean's appeal but decided to confirm his expulsion by 31 votes to nil with a small number of abstentions.

Philip Tilbrook

I was very sad to learn that Phil Tilbrook passed away in July after his diagnosis in May. Phil joined the Club more than ten years ago and provided valuable service for the last two as a member of the Committee. Members attended his funeral service in Tadworth. In the tributes we heard from his family and friends about his rebellious youth; long greasy hair, the motorbike and (allegedly) smoking pot

but later settling down, raising a family and building his successful business. Phil was a keen sportsman, particularly golf and we heard that, at cricket, he was a tenacious opening batsman, "Like Boycott but a lot worse!". We will miss Phil at Mayfield and our thoughts remain with Gillian and with Phil's family.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT Summer 2014

Congratulations to the following who have been successful since the AGM(apologies for omissions).

MAYFIELD - CUP WINNERS 2014

Dorothy Williamson Peter Cogliatti, Fiona Clark, David Phillips, Derek Ash

SUCSESSES IN SURREY

County Pairs	1st	Peter Lee & Partner
Golf Bridge	1st	Tim Cook & Malcolm Pryor
Spring Swiss Pairs	4th	David Norman & Roger Sugden
Victor Ludorum		Adrian Patrick currently 5th

INTER COUNTY AND NATIONAL

Corwen 2nd Peter Lee & Partner

CLUB REPRESENTATIVE EVENTS

'Mary Edwards' for Club Pairs Champions - Roger Sugden & David Norman, 6th from 19
 'Wanborough' for Club Teams Champions - Alan Bailey, Roy Smith, Julian Hemsted, Adrian Patrick, 4th from 19

A Bridge Hand

Here is Board 8, hot off the press, from the main 2014 Brighton Congress Pairs on the Sunday afternoon sent to me by a pal. I failed the test, (and so did my pal at the table)!!
 You are playing 4 Spades. Even with all four hand in view, 4 Spades is not easy and not many pairs made it at the table

North	South
♠ A Q 10 6 ♥ Q 7 ♦ K 9 5 ♣ J 7 5 4	♠ K 7 5 4 ♥ A 8 5 4 ♦ J 4 ♣ A K 2

Bidding

S	W	N	E
1NT (15-17)	P	2C*	X*
2S	P	4 S	All Pass

Lead, 6 of Clubs.

*2C was Stayman and the double showed a club stack, presumably five to the Queen ten.
 Choose you line before looking overleaf!

Analysis

It looks like you have just 8 tricks on top, 4 trumps, a ruff, 2 clubs and the heart Ace.

The simple line is just to assume favourable positions for the diamonds and the heart King, superficially about a 25% shot. But would East double without the diamond Ace? That's doubtful, reducing your chances.

I think you will always need the heart king on your left. Negotiating a second heart ruff for your 10th trick is impossible with club ruffs pending.

So can you make the contract in the more likely case when East has the diamond ace?

A Winning Line

Win the club, and play a low heart to the Queen. You will subsequently unblock the heart Queen, draw trumps ending in hand, play Ace hearts discarding a diamond and a ruff the fourth heart. In the five card ending, East has had to hang on to the Q 10 9 clubs (to prevent a club throw in) and so he is down to A x (or A Q diamonds).

Play a low diamond away from the King! East cannot hop up with the ace as the King will be declarer's 10th trick. But then West has only diamonds to play to partner's now bare Ace. East is now endplayed to give you an extra club. Very pretty indeed.

On the actual layout, West had the diamond Queen and the heart King, East the diamond Ace and Q 10 to five clubs.

The Moral of the Story – Be careful when giving away information in the bidding when you have very little chance of actually playing the hand.

Roger Morton

An Interesting Hand for Lovers of Finesses

The following hand was played at the Club on Tuesday 13th May, 2014 as Hand 21. Actually it was not quite that hand as I have moved a few cards round a bit to make it more interesting generally. However, the layout of the key suit, diamonds, is exactly as per Hand 21 on that date.

Dealer: North
N/S vulnerable

	N	
	♠ K 7 2	
	♥ A 9 7 6	
	♦ A 8 6 5	
	♣ 9 3	E
W		♠ Q 8 5
♠ J 10 9 4		♥ 10 5
♥ 4 3 2		♦ J 2
♦ Q 10 7 3		♣ Q 10 8 6 5 2
♣ J 7	S	
	♠ A 6 3	
	♥ K Q J 8	
	♦ K 9 4	
	♣ A K 4	

Possible bidding

North	East	South	West
pass	pass	2NT	pass
3♣ ¹	pass	3♥	pass
4NT ²	pass	5♣ ³	pass
5♦ ⁴	pass	6♣ ⁵	pass
6♥	all pass		

- ¹ Stayman
- ² How many key cards (RKCB)?
- ³ 0 or 3 (here clearly 3)
- ⁴ Do you have ♥Q?
- ⁵ Yes, and ♣K

Contract: 6♥ by South
Lead: ♠J

Solution

The problem, obviously, is to avoid a loser in both spades and diamonds. Easy to do if you can rely on diamonds breaking 3-3, but less easy otherwise.

Win the lead in North's hand and draw trumps in three rounds, ending in dummy.

What is East's distribution, especially how many diamonds has he? Of course, six missing cards will usually break 4-2, but let us try and do better than that. To find out a bit more about the opponents' distribution, play off ♣A and ♣K and ruff the third club. This discloses that West started with two clubs, and thus East had six. Now East, who has shown two trumps, is known to have started with only five cards in spades and diamonds combined.

Let us look in a bit more detail at East's spades. On the opening lead he followed suit with ♠8 and is also marked with ♠Q. If he had started with only ♠Q 8, he would probably have unblocked his ♠Q at trick 1, so he probably started with three spades. So East's distribution is probably 3226: in other words he has two diamonds. Of these, at least one is statistically likely to be an honour. So lead ♦5 from dummy.

- If East plays low on this, play ♦9, drawing an honour from West. Win West's return (a spade is best) and play ♦K. Then lead ♦4 and take the finesse.
- If East plays an honour on the first round of the diamond suit, win with ♦K, then lead and run ♦9, whether or not it is covered. Assuming this loses, win the return (again a spade is best) and finesse ♦8.

In either event now cash ♦A discarding South's last spade, and the last trump makes 12 tricks.

This (fairly rare) type of finesse is called an intra-finesse.

Richard Wheen

Revaluing Your Hand When the Opponents Bid

In this situation, you should always look at your hand for a second time and be aware of the 'new' value of your points *according to which opponent has bid*.

For example, as South you hold: -

- ♠ A Q 7
- ♥ K 3
- ♦ 10 9 8 3 2
- ♣ 9 8 7

The bidding, so far, is:-

North	East	South	West
1♣	1NT	?	

East has shown a hand of about 15-18 HCP with a ♣ stop. What do you think of your hand? Has it improved or worsened in this auction? What bid do you make? Your thinking should be along these lines.

- West can have very few HCP (North has opened, East has 15-18, I have 9)
- If I defend, I have a sound alternative to a ♣ lead (10 ♦) with excellent prospects of developing the suit
- My high cards - ♠ A Q & ♥ K are well placed for our side and badly placed for East
- It must be right to double for penalties (N.B. if North has an unsuitable hand for defence he will bid again)

Now we can change the auction, as follows:-

North	East	South	West
1♣	Pass	1♦	1NT
Pass	Pass	?	

This time West has shown 15-18 HCP with stops in ♦ & ♣. What do you think of your hand? Has it improved or worsened in this auction? What bid do you make? Your thinking should be along these lines.

- This time East can have very few HCP, but....
- If I defend, Partner is on lead and any lead could well help Declarer
- My high cards - ♠ A Q & ♥ K are poorly placed for our side because they sit 'under' Declarer
- I could double but it will be a close run thing. I had better pass.

This could be the hand:-

Version 1	Version 2
♠ J 10 ♥ Q 8 7 5 ♦ K Q ♣ K J 10 6 2 ♠ 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ J 10 6 2 ♦ J 6 ♣ 5 4 ♠ A Q 7 ♥ K 3 ♦ 10 9 8 3 2 ♣ 9 8 7	♠ J 10 ♥ Q 8 7 5 ♦ K Q ♣ K J 10 6 2 ♠ K 8 2 ♥ A 9 4 ♦ A 7 5 4 ♣ A Q 3 ♠ A Q 7 ♥ K 3 ♦ 10 9 8 3 2 ♣ 9 8 7

In Version 1. North/South can easily secure a penalty of 300/500, while in Version 2, it requires a perfect defence by North/South to gain even a one trick defeat.

Tim Cook